



The impact of climate change on tribal communities in the US: Displacement, relocation, and human rights

Author(s): Maldonado JK, Shearer C, Bronen R, Peterson K, Lazrus H
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Abstract:

Tribal communities in the United States, particularly in coastal areas, are being forced to relocate due to accelerated rates of sea level rise, land erosion, and/or permafrost thaw brought on by climate change. Forced relocation and inadequate governance mechanisms and budgets to address climate change and support adaptation strategies may cause loss of community and culture, health impacts, and economic decline, further exacerbating tribal impoverishment and injustice. Sovereign tribal communities around the US, however, are using creative strategies to counter these losses. Taking a human rights approach, this article looks at communities' advocacy efforts and strategies in dealing with climate change, displacement, and relocation. Case studies of Coastal Alaska and Louisiana are included to consider how communities are shaping their own relocation efforts in line with their cultural practices and values. The article concludes with recommendations on steps for moving forward toward community-led and government-supported resettlement programs.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event, Glacier/Snow Melt, Human Conflict/Displacement, Sea Level Rise, Unspecified Exposure

Extreme Weather Event: Landslides

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Arctic, Ocean/Coastal

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

United States

Health Impact:

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: Tribal communities in the US

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Research Article

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified